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12/07/2001
01 FC:148
02 FC:103
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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

PATENT

B/BM
11/12-7-01

In re Application of)
 Jonnie R. WILLIAMS)
 Serial No.: 09/668,144) Group Art Unit: 1731
 Filed: September 25, 2000) Examiner: Colaianni, M.
 For: METHOD OF TREATING TOBACCO TO) Atty. Dkt. No.: 04859.00006
 REDUCE NITROSAMINE CONTENT, AND)
 PRODUCTS PRODUCED THEREBY)

AMENDMENT AND RESPONSE UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111

The Honorable Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, DC 20231

Sir:

In response to the Office Action mailed September 14, 2001, for which a three-month period for response has been set, *i.e.*, up to and including December 14, 2001, please enter the following amendment and reconsider the above-captioned application in view of the following remarks.

AMENDMENT

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims 29-61 without prejudice.
 Please add new claims 62-125 as follows.

B

62. (new) A process of substantially preventing the formation of at least one nitrosamine in a Virginia flue tobacco plant by treating the tobacco plant after the yellowing stage, the process comprising:

heating at least a portion of a Virginia flue tobacco plant with a flow of air while said portion is uncured, yellow, and in a state susceptible to having formation of said at least one nitrosamine arrested, for a time sufficient to substantially prevent formation of said at least one

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